(d) if so, the reasons of discrimination in opening of accounts in post offices in comparison to the Nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As existing account holder does not require a witness.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Target for I.T. Exports

2355. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for I.T. exports during this year; and

(b) Government's role in the growth of domestic hardware brands to enable India to become a major power in that sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The Tenth Five Year Plan has set up a target for I.T. Software Export of Rs. 54,000 crores during the Year 2002-2003.

(b) India Brand Equity Fund Trust under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary is assisting the individual brand promotions of established and reputed Indian brands in the overseas markets in the form of soft loans returnable in a period of 5 to 7 years along with obligation to pay nominal royalty on the increamental sales of the branded products in the thrust areas during the repayment period of the loan. The Trust also supports generic promotion of India as a reliable supplier of quality goods and services and supports International promotions to project India as a whole as well as specific production sectors.

Software Technology Parks

2356. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of software technology parks of India units have either got their licences cancelled or closed down during the last two years;